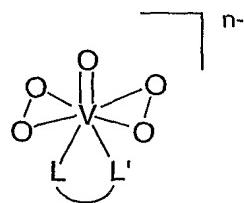
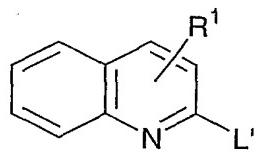
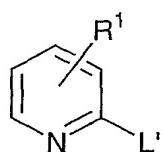


## CLAIMS:

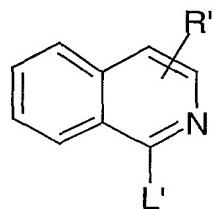
1. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5 wherein L-L' is :

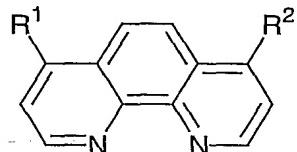
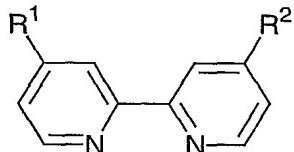


or



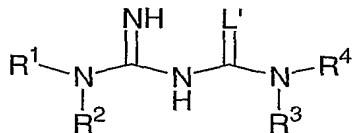
10 and L' is COO, CONR^5, CONHR^6, CH\_2NR^5R^6

or wherein L and L' together form a group:



15

or a group:



wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently H, hydroxyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, optionally

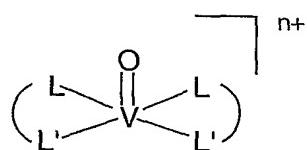
5 substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, phenyl, optionally substituted by C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup> or SO<sub>3</sub>, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> (NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

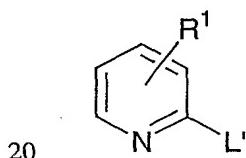
in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

2. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

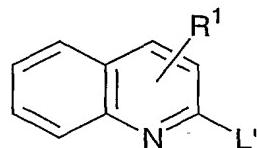


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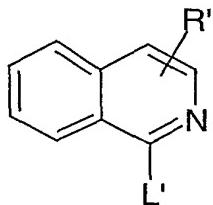
wherein L-L' is :



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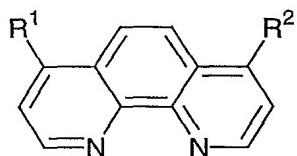
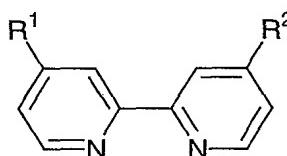
or



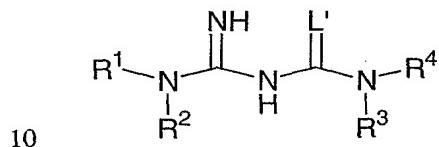
and L' is COO, CONR<sup>5</sup>, CONHR<sup>6</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>

or wherein L and L' together form a group:

5



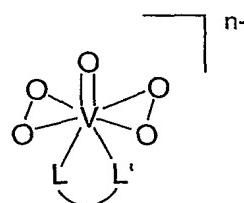
or a group:



wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

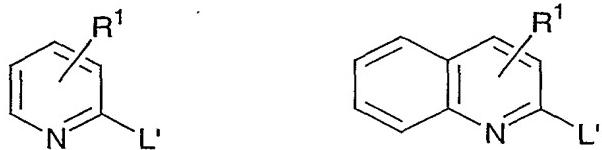
- 15    R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently H, hydroxyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, phenyl, optionally substituted by C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup> or SO<sub>3</sub>, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> (NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and
- 20    R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof  
in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the medicament is for use in inhibiting inositol phosphatases such as PTEN.
4. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the medicament is for use in treating diseases where inhibition of apoptosis is required.
5. The use as claimed in claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease, wound healing, burns, heart hypertrophy, hypoxia, ischemia, diabetes, sports injuries and as an anticancer agent.
- 10
6. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is potassium bisperoxo (bipyridine) oxovanadate (bpV(bipy)), potassium bisperoxo(1,10-phenanthroline)oxovanadate (pV(phenanthroline)), potassium bisperoxo (piconlinate) oxovanadate (pV(pic)) and potassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate (pV(biguan)).
- 15
7. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is pV(phenbig) [dipotassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate] or bpV(HOpic) [dipotassium bisperoxo(5-hydroxypyridine-2-carboxyl)oxovanadate].
- 20
8. The use as claimed in claim 7 wherein the medicament is for the treatment of diabetes.
9. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

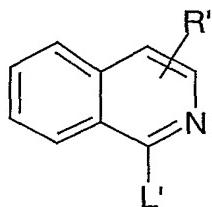


25

where L-L' is :



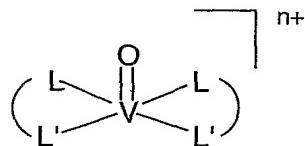
or



and L' is CONR<sup>5</sup> and CONHR<sup>6</sup>; and

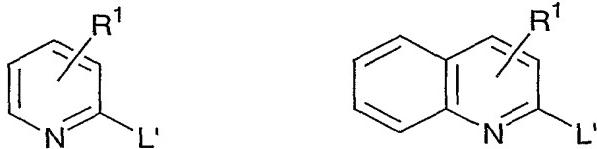
5 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.

10. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

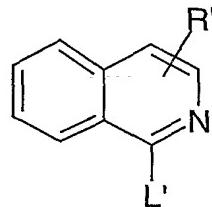


10

where L-L' is :



or

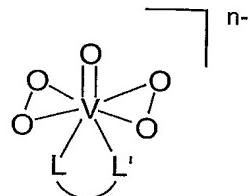


15

and L' is CONR<sup>5</sup> and CONHR<sup>6</sup>; and

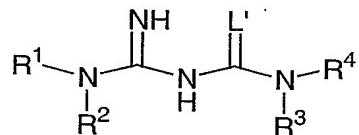
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.

11. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5

wherein L and L' together form a group:



10 wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are independently H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, phenyl, optionally substituted by C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup> or SO<sub>3</sub>, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> (NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and  
15 R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.  
20